

### REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the examiner's thorough review of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action dated August 23, 2004, and the allowance of Claims 1-48. As requested in the Office Action, Applicants submit herewith a replacement drawing sheet for Fig. 4 that corrects the typographical error in element 329 (replacing "materic" with "meteric"). As also requested, Applicants have amended the specification to delete the space above the heading on page 1 and to spell out the first occurrence of each acronym included in the specification.

Having addressed each of the informalities identified in the Office Action, Applicants believe that the application is now in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions, please feel free to call Applicants representative at (919) 854-1422.

Respectfully submitted,



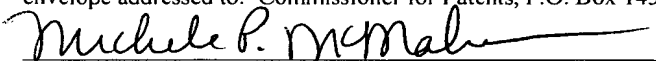
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### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 22, 2004.



Michele P. McMahan

Date of Signature: September 22, 2004